



*Inspiring all learners to
achieve excellence*

**Barrington Community
Unit School District 220**

BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

BARRINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Prairie Campus

Station Campus

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Countryside

Grove Avenue

Hough Street

Arnett C. Lines

North Barrington

Barbara B. Rose

Roslyn Road

Sunny Hill

Woodland

Emil C. Rode
Principal

Barrington High School

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EI 3358

November 15, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

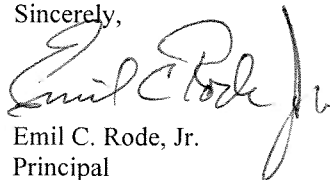
It has come to my attention that Canadian National Railway Company seeks to acquire the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Co, which operates a rail line that runs through the Barrington area. In my capacity as Principal of Barrington High School, I would like to register my concern as to the impact that this increased rail traffic will generate in Barrington, Illinois, and affect the functioning of our school. My overriding concern goes to the safety of our staff and students. One of the rail grade crossings lies just 2 blocks east of our high school building across one of the main thoroughfares in the village.

I have learned that, as a result of this transaction, at least 15 new freight trains will travel through the Barrington area on a daily basis. According to some sources, this rail traffic will expand in future years. I feel that an increase of this magnitude must require a great deal of scrutiny and examination to ensure that all safety issues associated with vehicular and pedestrian traffic are addressed. I understand that the federal government must consider all significant environmental impacts of its decisions, and issue a statement with alternatives and conditions before proceeding. I would hope that this review will study the overall impact of this transaction further into the future than the three years currently estimated by Canadian National.

The expanded rail traffic will have a significant impact on noise levels, traffic, and safety at grade crossings in and around the area of the high school. I am certain that an extra 15 freight trains, each taking somewhere around 5 minutes to pass through the area, will impact student and staff arrival times to school each day. It will make arrival times for traveling teachers to and from other buildings in our school district less reliable. In an emergency situation, an increase in freight train traffic could delay the arrival of fire and police services. Barrington High School houses close to 3350 students and staff on a daily basis.

As you can see, the Canadian National's purchase presents real problems for the members of our community. I am asking that the Surface Transportation Board to consider the impact this increased rail traffic will have on our community and its environment extremely thoroughly before you approve the CNR proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Emil C. Rode, Jr.
Principal